

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A multi-colour printing unit for a web-offset press comprising a plurality of printing couple pairs mounted vertically one above the other in a stack, each printing couple of said printing couple pairs comprising a plate and blanket cylinder and each printing couple pair being arranged so as to print a different colour on both sides of a paper web passing in a vertically upward direction between the printing couples of each pair, and an inking system associated with each print couple operable to supply ink to the plate cylinder thereof in an operative position, wherein the printing unit comprises an original primary module carrying all the printing couple pairs and a pair of secondary modules carrying the inking systems, the secondary modules being laterally slideable into a non-operative position in which both the secondary modules are separated from the primary module, further comprising means for moving the primary module out from between the secondary modules when the secondary modules are in their non-operative positions and separated from the primary module to enable a second primary module, comprising a plurality of printing couple pairs in which the plate and blanket cylinders are of a different diameter to the diameter of the plate cylinders of the original primary module, to take the place of the original primary module so that the secondary modules can be moved back into an operative position with said second primary module, wherein the primary and secondary modules each define a path for the paper web extending vertically between the print couples of each pair, the second primary module being positionable in place of the original primary module such that the location of web path associated with the original primary module and with the second primary module remains unchanged.

2. (withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 1, wherein the primary module is disposed between the pair of secondary modules.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A printing unit according to claim 3 ~~1~~, wherein each of the secondary modules are slideable laterally away from the primary module in opposite directions.

5. (currently amended) A printing unit according to claim 3 ~~1~~, wherein each secondary module is slideably mounted on a supporting base.

6. (original) A printing unit according to claim 5, wherein a slide unit is attached to each of the secondary modules for cooperation with a guide track on the supporting base.

7. (original) A printing unit according to claim 6, wherein the slide unit includes pre-loaded roller bearings that cooperate with a recess on the guide track.

8. (withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 6, wherein the secondary modules include a carriage to which they are immovably attached, the slide units being mounted on the carriage.

9. (withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 6, including means for driving said carriage along the track.

10. (withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 9, wherein the drive means includes a motor drivingly connected to a ball screw mounted to the supporting base and a connecting member on the ball screw attached to the secondary module such that the secondary module slides on the supporting base in response to rotation of the ball screw by the motor.

11. (withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 10, wherein the motor is connected to the ball screw via a pair of pulleys and a drive belt.

12-14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A printing unit according to claim 1, including a plurality of additional primary modules, said means enabling the primary module located between the secondary modules to be replaced with a selected one of said plurality of additional primary modules when the secondary modules are moved into their non-operative positions.

16. (canceled)

17. (withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 1, comprising a cooperating adjustment mechanism on the primary and secondary modules so that the inking systems adjust to plate cylinders of different diameters when the secondary modules are returned to their operative positions.

18. (withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 1, wherein said means for moving the primary module includes a slide member on the primary module which cooperates with a guide track attached to a supporting base on which the primary modules sits in an operative position.

19. (withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 18, wherein said means further includes a transfer bogie which cooperates with the or each primary module to push it along the guide track onto a transfer pallet.

20. (withdrawn) A printing unit according to 1, wherein dampening systems are mounted to each of the secondary units.

21.-56. (canceled)

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57. (previously presented) A printing unit according to claim 5, wherein the primary module is mounted to said supporting base separately to each of the secondary modules.